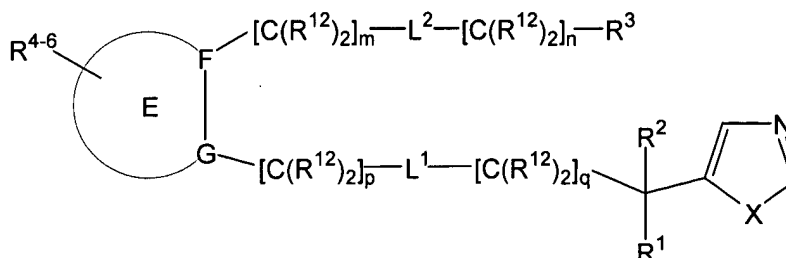


Amendments to the Claims

1 (Currently Amended). A compound of formula (I)



(I),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E is a six-membered aromatic carbocyclic ring in which F and G are C;

L¹ is O;

L² is selected from the group consisting of a bond, C₂ alkenylene, C₂ alkynylene, O, NR⁹, C(O), S, S(O), SO₂, SO₂NR⁹, NR⁹SO₂, C(O)NR⁹, NR⁹C(O), and CO₂;

X is NR⁷;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of aryl[,] and arylalkyl[,], ~~heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkyl~~;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, ~~heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl~~, hydroxy, and hydroxyalkyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, heterocycle, and cycloalkyl, wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl;

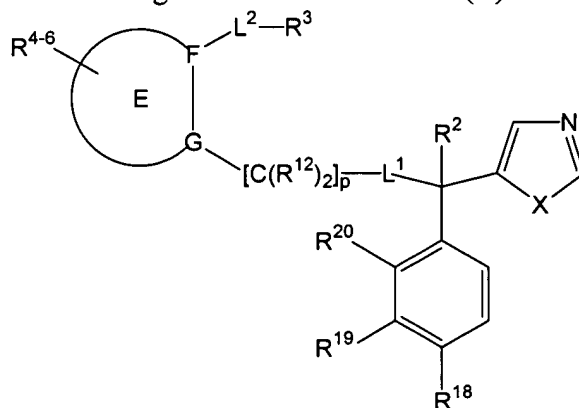
R⁴⁻⁶ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, NR⁹C(O), C(O)NR⁹, alkanoyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkynyl, amido, amino, aminoalkyl, aminosulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylsulfonyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, ~~heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl~~, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, nitroalkyl, oxo, and thio(oxo);

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, ~~heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl~~, and trialkylsilyl;

R⁹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, amidoalkyl, aminoalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, ~~heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl~~, hydroxyalkyl, and a nitrogen protecting group;

each R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, halo, and hydroxy;
m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and
q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

2 (Original). A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (II)



(II),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E, F, G, L^1 , L^2 , X, R^2 , R^3 , R^{4-6} , R^{12} , and p are as defined in Claim 1 and
 R^{18} , R^{19} , and R^{20} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, and halo.

3 (Currently Amended). A compound according to Claim 2 wherein

L^2 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, NR^9SO_2 , and $C(O)NR^9$;
wherein each group is drawn with its left end attached to F and its right end attached to R^3 ;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxy;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heterocycle **wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl;**

R^{12} is hydrogen; and

p is 0 or 1.

18 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 3 wherein one of R^{4-6} is cyano.

19 (Original). A compound according to Claim 18 wherein

R¹⁸ is cyano; and

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

20 (Original). A compound according to Claim 19 selected from the group consisting of
6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;

6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3'-ethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;

3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)benzonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;

N-(5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)phenyl)-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-(5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-N-(4-methylpyridin-2-yl)benzamide;

N-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-cyano-2-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)benzamide;

4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3-(6-oxo-1-propyl-1,6-dihydropyridin-3-yl)benzonitrile; and

4-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)-3-(6-propoxypyridin-3-yl)benzonitrile.

21 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 3 wherein one of R⁴⁻⁶ is halo.

22 (Currently Amended). A compound according to Claim 21 wherein R³ is heterocycle **wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl.**

23 (Original). A compound according to Claim 22 wherein

R¹⁸ is cyano; and

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

24 (Original). A compound according to Claim 23 selected from the group consisting of

4-(((2-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-chlorobenzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

and 4-(((4-chloro-2-(5-formyl-2-thienyl)benzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile.

25 (Original). A compound according to Claim 21 wherein R³ is aryl.

26 (Original). A compound according to Claim 25 wherein the aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one substituent selected from the group consisting of alkanoyl, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, cyano, formyl, halo, and haloalkyl.

27 (Original). A compound according to Claim 26 wherein

R¹⁸ is cyano; and

R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

28 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 27 selected from the group consisting of

4-(((2',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-2'-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-2'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((3',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-fluoro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4-chloro-2-(1-naphthyl)benzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((3'-amino-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
3'-chloro-6'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;
4-(((2'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((4'-tert-butyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((5-chloro-3'-ethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
N-(5'-chloro-2'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-yl)acetamide;
4-(((5-chloro-4'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile; and
4-(((5-chloro-3'-formyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile.

29 (Original). A compound according to Claim 25 wherein the aryl is substituted with two or three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkyl, and halo.

30 (Original). A compound according to Claim 29 wherein

R¹⁸ is cyano; and
R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are hydrogen.

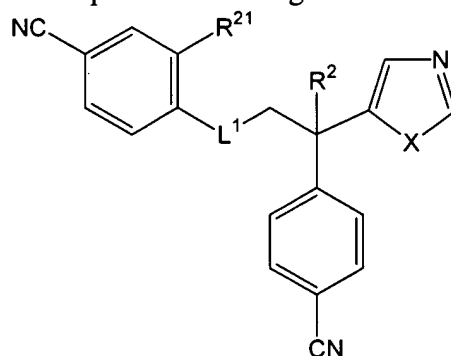
31 (Original). A compound according to Claim 30 selected from the group consisting of

4-(((5-chloro-3',4'-dimethyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-2',5'-dimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((5-chloro-3',4'-dimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-(((5-chloro-3',4',5'-trimethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;
4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((2',3',5-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxymethyl)benzonitrile;
4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((3',5,5'-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxymethyl)benzonitrile; and
4-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)((3',4',5-trichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxymethyl)benzonitrile.

32 (Currently Amended).

A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (III)



(III),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

L¹, X, and R² are as defined in Claim 1; and

R²¹ is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heterocycle **wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl.**

33 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 32 wherein

L¹ is O;

X is NR⁷; and

R² is selected from the group consisting of amino, halo and hydroxy.

38 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

R² is hydroxy; and

R²¹ is aryl.

39 (Original). A compound according to Claim 38 selected from the group consisting of

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',4'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',5'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',4'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3',5'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(1-naphthyl)benzonitrile; and

(S)-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

40 (Currently Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

R² is hydroxy; and

R²¹ is heterocycle **wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl.**

41 (Original). A compound according to Claim 40 selected from the group consisting of
3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)benzonitrile;
4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-quinolin-8-ylbenzonitrile; and
4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)benzonitrile.

42 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 herein
R² is halo; and
R²¹ is aryl.

43 (Original). A compound according to Claim 42 selected from the group consisting of
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',4'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3',5'-difluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
3',4'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
3',5'-dichloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile;
6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3'-fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile; and
3'-chloro-6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

44 (Currently Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

R^2 is halo; and

R^{21} is heterocycle wherein the heterocycle may be substituted or unsubstituted and is selected from the group consisting of benzodioxolyl, thiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyridinyl, and dihydropyridinyl.

45 (Original). A compound according to Claim 44 selected from the group consisting of

3-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)benzonitrile;

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-quinolin-8-ylbenzonitrile; and

4-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoro-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-3-(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)benzonitrile.

46 (Previously Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

R^2 is amino; and

R^{21} is aryl.

47 (Original). A compound according to Claim 46 which is

6-(2-amino-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

48 (Original). A compound which is

6-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

49 (Original). A compound which is

6-((2S)-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)ethoxy)-4'-(trifluoromethoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl-3-carbonitrile.

50 (Original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

51 (Currently Amended). A method for reducing tumor size by inhibiting farnesyltransferase in a patient in recognized need of such treatment comprising administering to

the patient a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof.

52 (Previously Amended). A method for treating cancer by inhibiting farnesyltransferase in a patient in recognized need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically acceptable amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof.